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**TESTIMONY RE: RAISED BILL 6597, AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDE
APPLICATIONS AT CHILD DAY CARE FACILITIES**

Public Health Committee

March 6, 2009

TO: Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Mary Jane Williams, RN, PhD, chair, Government Relations Committee, Connecticut Nurses' Association

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut, for Raised Bill 6597, An Act Concerning Pesticide Applications at Child Day Care Facilities. Our Association strongly supports this bill which will provide the protection from the harmful effects of pesticides for our youngest and most vulnerable population.

Of particular note is the language for notification of parents by "any means practicable." This would make it easy for these facilities with different kids coming on different days and times for example to post a notice on the door to be in compliance. Also, the provision regarding emergency applications of pesticides would be applicable to only the grounds of licensees that are owned or under the licensee's control. Both of these help to make this bill a better crafted one and better policy than Committee Bill 257, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticide at Day Care Facilities.

The Environmental Protection Agency's information, "Kids Need Protection" provides good information about why this bill is needed. It will help to prevent the adverse health effects of pesticides for Connecticut's potentially 97,000 kids in 1601 group home and child day care centers as well as potentially 16,000 more in 2,600 family day care homes.

Kids Need Protection

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/kidpesticide.htm>

“Children are at a greater risk for some pesticides for a number of reasons. Children's internal organs are still developing and maturing and their enzymatic, metabolic, and immune systems may provide less natural protection than those of an adult. There are "critical periods" in human development when exposure to a toxin can permanently alter the way an individual's biological system operates. Children may be exposed more to certain pesticides because often they eat different foods than adults.

For instance, children typically consume larger quantities of milk, applesauce, and orange juice per pound of body weight than do adults. Children's behaviors, such as playing on the floor or on the lawn where pesticides are commonly applied, or putting objects in their mouths, increase their chances of exposure to pesticides.

Adverse effects of pesticide exposure range from mild symptoms of dizziness and nausea to serious, long-term neurological, developmental and reproductive disorders. Americans use more than a billion pounds of pesticides each year to combat pests on farm crops, in homes, places of business, schools, parks, hospitals, and other public places.”

Thank you for your consideration. Based on the current literature and evidence related to the risks of pesticide exposures, we urge the committee to act favorably on this bill.